

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

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Remarks:

Executive Secretary

10/5/83

Date



American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

INSTITUTE FOR COMMUNICATIONS LAW STUDIES
THE COLUMBUS SCHOOL OF LAW

October 3, 1983

Mr. William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Executive Registry
83-4835

Dear Mr. Casey:

Though Congress worked to change the Freedom of Information Act this fall, the tug-of-war continues between those who believe FOIA should be liberalized and those who want substantial restrictions. So the American Enterprise Institute and the Institute for Communications Law Studies at Catholic University are going to co-sponsor a timely conference titled, "The Freedom of Information Act: How Is It Working?"

The conference will be held from 1 to 5:15 p.m., Thursday, October 27th, in Caldwell Hall Auditorium, Catholic University. A map with parking directions is enclosed for your convenience.

The first session, "A FOIA Updater" will address questions currently being asked about the Act. Government investigative agencies persistently push for changes, contending that FOIA conflicts with their "primary mission." CIA Director William Casey, for example, argues that FOIA has already caused the "inadvertent disclosure of sensitive intelligence information."

Moreover, argue the critics, FOIA places an enormous administrative burden on government. The early estimate of \$100,000 annual cost gave way to the reality of a \$60 million tab in 1980.

Defenders counter that while FOIA isn't perfect, the act has not endangered the national security. Indeed, a recent study showed that U.S. defense and intelligence agencies could not cite a single instance of a Soviet bloc attempt to use the law to collect intelligence.

The second session, "What Happens When Business Uses FOIA," will feature the pros and cons of the act from a business standpoint. Business accounts for more than half of FOIA requests, and some charge the act is used to obtain trade secrets. Amendments to the act designed to remedy this flaw, will be discussed. The program with speakers list is also enclosed.

We expect a lively afternoon, and would like you, or someone you designate, to attend. Please phone [redacted] (AEI) at 862-5815 with your acceptance.

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Resident Journalist, AEI

Director, Communications Law Institute
Catholic University

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The Freedom of Information Act: How Is It Working? October 27, 1983

P306